Conversion of Ghatkopar Railway Station into Suburban Railway Terminal in Bombay

796. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand to convert Ghatkopar Railway Station in Bombay into a Suburban Railway Terminal;

(b) if so, what is the response of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that this would ease the over-crowding in other North-bound suburban train during peak hours; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to reduce over-crowding and increase frequency of suburban trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not operationally feasible to provide a suburban terminal of Ghatkopar, in view of the fact that the existing Kurla Terminal is located in close vicinity of only 3.91 kms away from Ghatkopar. Besides, it will adversely affect the running of the trains.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Overcrowding in north-bound suburban trains during peak hours will persist as the total number of suburban services on the Bombay VT-Ghatkopar section will remain the same. However, the problem of ovecrowding in suburban trains can be eased by introducing additional trains.

As a part of optimisation of suburban services, it is proposed to reduce headway between trains progressively from 5 minutes to 4 minutes and from 4 minutes to 3 minutes, subject to availability of funds and EMU rakes. This will help in increasing the frequency of suburban trains.

Late running of Jhelum Express

797. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Jhelum Express running from Pune to Jammu is always late on all Mondays for over six hours;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to change in the time-table of this train on Mondays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) On every Monday 4677Up Jhelum Express is rescheduled to leave Pune at 21.30 hrs. instead of usual departure timings of 17.40 hrs.

(b) The overlapping rake of Jhelum Express is utilised to run 1095/1096 Pune-Ahmedabad Ahimsa Express (weekly) leaving Pune on every Sunday and coming back on Tuesday.

(c) A decision has already been taken to delink the rakes of the two trains.

798. (Transferred to 10th Dec., 1993.)

Target for revenue earning Traffic

799. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are not likely to achieve the target of Transporting 370 Million tonnes of Revenue earning Traffic this year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are hopeful to achieve the target in the remaining five months of the current financial year; and

(d) if not, the loss likely to be borne by Government?